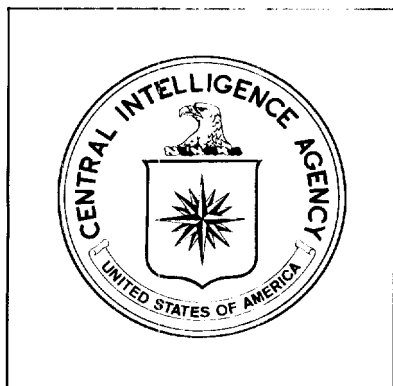


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STAFF NOTES:

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SC No. 08361/75
September 29, 1975

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MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Jordan-Syria

Husayn-Asad Talks

25X1C [REDACTED] King Husayn was not successful during his visit to Damascus last week in his attempt to persuade President Asad to meet with President Sadat to patch up their differences over the Sinai accord. Husayn had hoped to host a four-power summit in Amman that would have included Saudi Arabia.

The Saudis apparently have been trying to arrange a similar meeting of their own and may have better chances of bringing Asad around. That is far from a certainty, however. Asad is probably reluctant at present to meet with Sadat at all because he does not want to appear to be endorsing the terms of the Sinai agreement.

25X1C [REDACTED]

In deference to the Syrians, Husayn inched closer to public opposition to the Sinai agreement. Although he deftly avoided the issuance of a joint communique condemning the agreement at the end of his stay, he did issue a statement on his return to Amman that acknowledged in general terms that Syria's and Jordan's views on the Egyptian-Israeli accord were "identical."

25X1C [REDACTED]

25X1A [REDACTED]

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Bangladesh-USSR

Mission to Moscow

Mohiuddin Ahmed, a special representative of Bangladesh's President Mushtaque, met with Soviet officials in Moscow last week. The primary aim of the mission apparently was to reassure the Soviets that Dacca remained committed to nonalignment and that the early recognition of the Mushtaque regime by Pakistan and China did not mean that Bangladesh was about to improve its relations with those countries at the expense of its relations with the USSR.

25X1C

[REDACTED] Mohiuddin found the Soviets "noncommittal" in their attitudes toward Bangladesh. The Soviet press has been critical of the recent coup and the killing of former president Mujib, a friend of the Soviets. Moscow has kept up a steady flow of propaganda to ensure that the new Dacca government adheres to Mujib's foreign policy line.

25X1C

The new Dacca regime has been concerned about Soviet intentions, but hopes it can keep on reasonably good terms with Moscow. Its next step may be to name a new ambassador to Moscow; the post has been vacant for over two months. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE ONLY/CONTROLLED DISSEM)

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